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THE ROUNSEVELL FAMILY

By EBENEZER WEAVER PEIRCE

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FOREWORD

THIS history of the Rounsevell family was written in 1874 by Ebenezer Peirce of Assonet Village, Freetown, Mass., whose grandmother was a Rounsevell.

As it must have taken a great deal of time and painstaking research on the part of Mr. Peirce to gather all the data contained in this history, it would seem that we of this generation owe it to him and to the memory of our ancestors to keep his work alive.

As there are only a few copies of the original edition in existence now (1932) I am taking it upon myself to have a few copies reprinted and distributed to every Rounsevell descendant who is interested in his genealogy.

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It is my aim and ambition to try to complete what he so ably started and record the lineage of those who lived during the period from 1874 to the present time, with the hope that some of our posterity will do the same from time to time.

This should be comparatively easy as we have only 60 years to record, while Mr. Peirce had to go back nearly 200 years.

I have recently been in communication with members of the family who are living in New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, and California whose ancestors Mr. Peirce was unable to trace and disposed of by stating that they removed to New York State.

Through one of these I have learned that there was a town in Allegheny Co., New York, named Rounseville for one of the early settlers who moved there from Mass.

This honor was bestowed upon him on the condition that he change the spelling to Rounseville. The name of this town has since been changed to Oramel, as Rounseville was too hard for strangers to spell and remember.

I am requesting every one to kindly send me all the data in their possession in regard to members of their branch of the family, being sure to include such details as dates of births, marriages and deaths, also names of towns where they resided, their occupation, profession, military service, public offices held, or anything of interest concerning them.

Such data should also include the way each branch want the name spelled and if possible, why and when the original spelling was changed. Please address all communications to

PHILIP WINSLOW ROUNSEVELL,
103 Blackstone Street,
Boston, Mass.

Recd - Apr 6 - 1932

THE ROUNSEVELL FAMILY

BY EBENEZER WEAVER PEIRCE

WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL, of Honiton,[1] a borough or market town and parish in Devonshire County, England, had at least five children, of whom we have gathered the following facts:

(2) Philip, b. May 1, 1677; emigrated to America in 1700. In 1708 he was living in a house in Freetown owned by Lieut. Josiah Winslow, the premises being now (1874) owned and occupied by Thos. G. Winslow. Philip married (in or before 1705) Mary, a daughter of Samuel Howland, of Duxbury, and afterwards of Freetown, granddaughter of Henry Howland the emigrant. Philip removed from Freetown to Middleboro' (near Hunting-House Brook) in or before 1721, and from thence to Tiverton, now East Freetown. Mary, the wife, died May 8, 1744, in her 71st year. (*See gravestones in Rounsevell family cemetery.*) Born in or about 1673. Her father, in his will, dated Feb. 5, 1715, gave her one cow. (*See Bristol Co. Probate Records.*)

Philip died a little before sunrise Sunday morning, Nov. 6, 1763, and had been sick only about one week. The inscription upon his tomb-stone in Rounsevell cemetery informs that he "*was born at hunnetun* in Devonshire in old England." He made no will, but left a very large estate that was divided in 1765 by Capt. John Paul, John Crane, and Capt. Benajah Babbitt.

Philip Rounsevell's second wife was Rachel ——. She died Sept. 15, 1745, in her 46th year, and must have been born in or near 1699. Philip and wives have suitable gravestones.

(3) Thomas, b. at date unknown; m. in or about 1709. He probably remained in England.

(4) A son, name not known.

(5) Jane. Was alive in 1709, and sent her love to Philip in a letter dated Honiton, Eng., March 11, 1709.

(6) A daughter, name not known, who was alive and well in 1709.

A letter written in 1709 by William Rounsevell, of Honiton, and addressed to his son Philip, is still preserved by his lineal descendants. The following is a true copy:

Honiton march ye 11 day 1708-9.

Dutiful fon. I Received yr Last Letter in December 1705 which was dated December ye 25, 1704 and this being ye sixth Letter I have fent to you since and never had any Anfwer from you and if you Recieve this Letter I would have you to fend a letter to me yt I may know where it is yt you Live and I think it very strange yt you do not fend to me till you have an Anfwer from me for you know where to fend to me and I do not know where to fend to you but when I fend to you it is by (word unintelligible) and you know how apt letters are to be mifcarried at such a distance, and therefore fend letters to me till you Recieve one from me for I shall have an occasion to fend to you within one yeares time. Your brother Thomas is married and I am in good health, and fo are your Brothers and sisters and I hope thefe Lines will finde you in good health as we are Blessed be God for it.

I am forry to heare of your trobles and Afflictions yt you have mett with since you left this Land and I pray God yt it may be a means to make you stick Closer to your Duty and look up to Heaven for a Blefsing and I shall never be wanting in my Prayers for you, for my Hart was never Hardened against you and I desire ye Lord Almity to Blefs keep and Preferve you and fo I must leave you to ye Protection of him yt keeps man and Beast and do not forget to fend to me and then in so Doing you will oblige your Affectionate Father. This with my love and your sister Janes to you;

I am your Affectionate Father.

William Rounsevell.

Of Philip Rounsevell the emigrant I find the following notices in the public records.

1708. Living in the house of Lieut. Josiah Winslow.

1710, April 11. Petit Juryman for Freetown.

1721, January 9. Then said to be of Middleboro', and called "cloth worker." Bought of Benjamin Durfee, of Tiverton,

some land in Tiverton (now East Freetown) for sixty pounds.

1727, Sept. 7. Then said to have been late of Middleboro', but then of Tiverton, clothier, bought of Joseph Wanton of Tiverton a piece of land for one hundred pounds.

1728, March 4. For two hundred and twenty pounds, bought of Benjamin Durfee a tract of land in Tiverton, called the "square."

1729, Sept. 7. Then said to be of Tiverton. Bought of Joseph Wanton, of said town, a piece of the "Bolton Cedar Swamp," for six pounds current money.

1731, January 22. Bought of Stephen Blackmar, of Rochester, half a swamp lot in Tiverton. The sum paid was twelve pounds ten shillings.

1732, June 14. Purchased half the twenty-eighth lot in Tiverton. He bought this of Joseph Blackmar, of Rochester, and paid thirteen pounds.

1735, May 1. For twelve pounds he bought of Jacob Hathaway, of Freetown, the other half of twenty-eighth lot in Tiverton.

1736, July 13. He bought of Thomas Church, Esq., of Litte Compton, a piece of land for one hundred pounds.

1737, Jan. 10. Bought of Benjamin Durfee a piece of "Bolton Cedar Swamp" for sixty pounds.

PHILIP ROUNSEVELL (No. 2) and wife Mary Howland had:

(7) William, b. in Freetown, Oct. 10, 1705, at twenty-seven minutes past six o'clock in the afternoon (Town Records of Freetown); m. Elizabeth, a daughter of John Macomber, of Taunton, and wife Elizabeth Williams, granddaughter of John Macomber and wife Anne Evans. William died Jan. 31, 1744 (gravestone), and Elizabeth for a second husband married Williams Ashley. She died 18—. By her second husband she had three children, two sons and a daughter, viz., Noah, Micah and Abiah.

(8) John, b. 1706; m. twice: first, 1731, Sarah Holloway. She d. January, 1743, in her 37th year. He m. second, 1745, Sarah Spooner. She d. April 28, 1793, in her 77th year. Capt. John d. Nov. 14, 1783. He was commissioned Captain of the 3d company[2] of militia of Freetown in 1751. Freetown then had three companies commanded by Captains Abiel Terry, George Brightman and John Rounsevell.

(9) Philip, m. Hannah Jenney, of Freetown.

(10) Mary, b. March 3, 1711; m. Jan. 8, 1745, Henry Hoskins, Jr., of Taunton, a son of Henry Hoskins, "blacksmith," and wife Abigail Godfrey, grandson of William Hoskins and wife Sarah Caswell, great-grandson of William Hoskins, of Plymouth, and wife Ann Hinde. Henry Hoskins, Jr., d. June 3, 1796. Mary d. Aug. 17, 1792.

Of the children of Thomas Rounsevell (No. 3) or of his sister Jane (No. 5), and another sister (No. 6), name not learned, we know nothing. Probably they never left England.

WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL (No. 7) and wife Elizabeth Macomber had:

(11) William, b. 1735; m. twice: first, July 30, 1767, Rebecca Hoar, of Middleboro'. She d. Dec. 13, 1774, and he m. second, Oct. 4, 1776, Gabrielle DeMoranville, of Freetown, a daughter of Stephen DeMoranville. She d. March 20, 1816. (Freetown Records and gravestones.)

(12) Joseph. Was a soldier in the French and Indian War. (See Rolls at State House, Boston.) Tradition informs that Joseph Rounsevell resided in Middleboro', that part now Lakeville, sold out there, and removed from Massachusetts to a distant part of the country. (Wash. N.H.)

(13) Levi, b. 1739; m. twice: first, April 28, 1760, Betsey Howland, of Middleboro'. She died, and he m. Mrs. Molly Brown, of Milton. He died Jan. 3, 1815. He was Captain of Freetown Minute Men, April 1775, and also Captain in Col. Daniel Brewer's regiment in the patriot army of the Revolution, on duty at Roxbury in Oct. 1775.

(14) Sylvester, b. March 18, 1741; died Oct. 7, 1743.

(15) Elizabeth, b. Aug. 25, 1743; m. May 18, 1761, Capt. Job Peirce, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. She died June 9, 1790. He died July 22, 1819. He was born Nov. 29, 1737. (Middleboro' Records and gravestones.)

They were the grand-parents of the writer of this genealogy and family history.[3]

Capt. JOHN ROUNSEVELL (No. 8) and wife Sarah Holloway had:

(16) Sarah, b. 1731; m. July 17, 1755, John Peirce, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. She died Oct. 25, 1774; was buried in Lakeville, and has a suitable gravestone. He was buried in

Shutesbury, Mass., and has no gravestone.

(17) Hope, b. 1735; m. Nov. 5, 1760, Col. John Nelson, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. She died Dec. 28, 1820. He died Sept. 11, 1803.[4] Both buried in Lakeville, and have suitable gravestones bearing inscriptions. He was b. Oct. 25, 1737, son of Lieut. Thomas Nelson and wife Judith Peirce.

(18) John, b. Sept. 1738; d. Feb. 5, 1739. (Gravestone.)

By second wife, Sarah Spooner, had:

(19) Mary, b. 1747; d. Feb. 15, 1761. (Gravestone.)

(20) Elizabeth, b. March 17, 1750; m. April 5, 1770, Hon. Alden Spooner, of Acushnet, then Dartmouth. She died Dec. 14, 1813. He died Sept. 28, 1844, aged 94 years, 6 months and 15 days. (Gravestones.)

(21) Thomas, m. twice: first, Sept. 14, 1769, Phylena, a daughter of Ensign Silas Hathaway, of Freetown, and wife Deborah Carlisle, granddaughter of Col. Ebenezer Hathaway, of Freetown, and great-granddaughter of Deacon Abram Hathaway, of Berkley. She died, and he married, second, Feb. 5, 1795, Mrs. Anna Cole, the widow of Abial Cole, of Shutesbury, and daughter of Ebenezer Peirce, of Middleboro', now Lakeville, and wife Mary Hoskins. Anna died in Sept. 1806. Thomas Rounsevell died Jan. 31, 1826.

PHILIP ROUNSEVELL (No. 9) and wife Hannah Jenney had:

(22) Hannah, b. May 2, 1749.

(23) Philip, b. July 2, 1750; m. 1775, Mercy, a daughter of Abial Cole and wife Anna Peirce, granddaughter of Ebenezer Peirce and wife Mary Hoskins, great-granddaughter of Isaac Peirce, Jr., and wife Judith Booth.

HENRY HOSKINS, JR., and wife Mary Rounsevell (No. 10) had:

(24) Philip, m. Mary Myrick.

(25) Peter.

(26) Mary, m. 1748, Solomon Paine, of Freetown. He enlisted as a soldier in the French and Indian war, and deserted. (See rolls at State House, Boston.)

(27) William, b. May 21, 1754; m. Nov. 4, 1779, Sarah Caswell. He was a patriot soldier in the War of the Revolution, and was commissioned Lieutenant of a company[5] of the local militia of Taunton, May 17, 1792, that company being a part of

the 3d Regiment, 2d Brigade, 5th Division, Mass. Militia.

Mary, the mother, was the second wife of Henry Hoskins, Jr., Hannah, his first wife, has a gravestone bearing a legible inscription. It is in the "Caswell burial-ground," so called, in East Taunton.

WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL (No. 11) and wife Rebecca Hoar had:

(28) William, m. April 14, 1799, Hannah Peirce, a daughter of Capt. James Peirce, of Middleboro', now Lakeville, and wife Abigail Smith, granddaughter of Elkanah Peirce and wife Hannah Eddy. Mrs. Hannah Rounsevell was born March 8, 1776.

(29) Sylvester, m. twice: first, a daughter of Rev. Samuel Nelson, of Middleboro'. She died, and he m. second, Mary Peirce, of Middleboro', a daughter of Silas Peirce and wife Anna Hathaway. They removed to the State of New York. Mary was born June 11, 1783; died Dec. 23, 1868.

(30) Abiatha, m. Polly Peirce, of Middleboro' who was born Nov. 14, 1784, and was sister to Hannah the wife of William Rounsevell (No. 28).

(31) Samuel, never married; lived to quite an advanced age. Moved to New York State. The writer remembers to have seen him once, when on a visit to Massachusetts many years ago.

(32) Asenath, m. Jan. 24, 1804, Dr. Elisha Briggs, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. He was commissioned Captain of the 7th Co. in the local militia of Middleboro', Sept. 29, 1806, being the successor to Capt. Elkanah Peirce, and superseding Lieut. Isaac Holloway,[6] who thereupon resigned, and his place was filled May 5, 1807, by commissioning Asa Winslow Lieutenant.

(33) Joanna, m. Abiatha Briggs, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. He was an Ensign of the 7th Co. of the local militia of Middleboro', Sylvanus Parris being Captain and Gideon Haskins Lieutenant.

By second wife, Gabrielle DeMoranville, had:

(34) Bradford, m. April 13, 1806, Hannah Rounsevell.

(35) Betsey, m. 1803, Dr. James Ashley, of East Freetown. He was commissioned Captain of the 3d Co. of local militia of Freetown, Oct. 14, 1805. He removed to the State of New York, and was succeeded in office by his brother Simeon

Ashley, Feb. 4, 1812. They were the sons of Lieut. Percival Ashley, of Freetown, who had formerly been Lieutenant of the same company.

(36) Susan, m. March 12, 1805, Col. Simeon Ashley, of East Freetown.[7] He was commissioned Captain of the 3d Co.[8] of local militia of Freetown, Feb. 4, 1812, and with fifty-three men, rank and file, formed a part of the Coast Guard at New Bedford in June, 1814. Promoted to Colonel of the 5th Regiment of 2d brigade, 5th Division Mass. Militia, August 10, 1818.

JOSEPH ROUNSEVELL (No. 12) and wife had:

(37) Alden, whom tradition says never married.

(38) Phebe, who died single, according to tradition.

(39) Mary, b. 1761; m. Lieut. Leonard Hinds, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. She died, Sept. 3, 1833, aged 72. He was a son of Rev. Ebenezer Hinds. Leonard was a drummer in the patriot army of the Revolution, and commissioned Lieutenant of the 7th Co. in the militia of Middleboro', now Lakeville (Beech Woods Co.).

Capt. LEVI ROUNSEVELL (No. 13) and wife Betsey Howland had:

(40) Abner, m. April 2, 1789, Hannah Oliver, of Freetown.

(41) William, b. 1769; m. Rhoda Durfee, of Freetown. He was an ordained minister of the gospel and an eloquent speaker. Was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for Bristol Co., Feb. 20, 1808, and held that office until his death, Nov. 13, 1816. Was chosen to represent the town of Freetown in the General Court at Boston, for ten consecutive years. Thought to have died from an overdose of opium, but not intentional suicide.

(42) Betsey, m. Aug. 14, 1791, Capt. Abraham Morton, of East Freetown. He was a son of Nathaniel Morton, 2d, and wife Rebecca, and born Aug. 12, 1769. He was commissioned Captain of the 3d Co. in the local militia of Freetown, May 21, 1798, and dismissed from that office by the sentence of a Court-Martial, sitting in Plymouth on the 13th and 14th days of Aug. 1805—an extract from the records of which is given in a note below.[9] Capt. Abraham Morton died in 1821.

By second wife, Mrs. Molly Brown, had:

(43) John, m. Nov. 23, 1802, Sally Rounsevell (No. 83), of Freetown, a daughter of Thomas Rounsevell. John was a Deputy Sheriff for Bristol Co., and was usually called "Sheriff

John." He was a Sergeant of the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814, in Capt. Simeon Ashley's company.

(44) Sarah, m. May 22, 1803, Hezekiah Mason, Esq. of East Freetown. He was a soldier in the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814, in Capt. Ashley's company.

(45) Fanny, m. John Tobey, of Freetown. He was a soldier in the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814, serving in the company commanded by Capt. Simeon Ashley, of Freetown, that constituted a part of the force under Lieut. Col. Benjamin Lincoln, of New Bedford, and Major Levi Peirce (No. 52), of Middleboro'.

Capt. Levi Rounsevell, the parent, was Captain of the Minute Men of Freetown that responded to the *first call* of our country, that now known as the Lexington Alarm; and he was subsequently a Captain in the patriot army of the American Revolution. (For rolls, see book entitled "Peirce Family of Old Colony," pages 63 and 68.) Capt. Rounsevell was of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety; Representative to General Court; Selectman and Moderator of annual town meeting.
Capt. JOB PEIRCE and wife Elizabeth Rounsevell (No. 15) had:

(46) Mercy, b. April 25, 1762; m. Oct. 11, 1782, Maj. Peter Hoar, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. He was a private soldier in a company of Minute Men at the "Lexington Alarm." April, 1775; Sergeant of Capt. Job. Peirce's company on duty at Rhode Island in 1777; Lieutenant of Capt. Henry Peirce's company on duty in Rhode Island in 1777 and 1780, and also Lieutenant of Capt. Edward Sparrow's company on duty in Rhode Island in what was called the "New Levy"; commissioned Captain of the 2d company of the local militia of Middleboro', June 6, 1793; promoted to Junior Major of 4th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Division Mass. Militia, Jan. 4, 1797; Senior Major or Lieut. Colonel, July 22, 1800. Honorably discharged 1806. Was elected a Selectman of Middleboro' for fifteen years; commissioned as Justice of the Peace for Plymouth County, 1811; represented the town in the General Court three years, viz., 1809, 1810, 1811. He died March 12, 1815, aged 60 years, 4 months and 13 days. Mercy, the wife, died May 20, 1847. Both have gravestones in the Peirce family cemetery, Lakeville.

(47) William Rounsevell, b. April 19, 1764. Was a sol-

dier in Capt. Henry Peirce's company of the patriot army on duty at Rhode Island in the War of the Revolution, and as a sailor in the patriot navy was captured and carried to England and confined as prisoner of war. Married Leonora Jones, of North Carolina. Was a master mariner, and died on the island of St. Bartholomew, May 15, 1794, and there buried. Gravestone erected in Peirce family cemetery in Middleboro', now Lakeville.

(48) Elizabeth, b. Jan. 6, 1766; m. Jan. 6, 1788, Gen. Abiel Washburn, of Middleboro'. He was commissioned Adjutant of 4th Regiment, in 1st Brigade, 5th Division, Mass. Militia, Oct. 2, 1788; promoted to Major, May 1, 1794; Lieut.-Colonel, Jan. 4, 1797; Colonel, July 22, 1800; Brigadier General, Sept. 4, 1816. Honorably discharged in 1824. He died of erysipelas, June 17, 1843. Elizabeth died March 23, 1850. He was a Justice of the Quorum for Plymouth Co., and a successful merchant

(49) Job, b. Dec. 12, 1767; m. Jan. 3, 1799, Anna, a daughter of Lieut. Robert Strobridge and wife Elizabeth Nelson, of Middleboro', now Lakeville, granddaughter of William Nelson and wife Elizabeth Howland. Of the 1st Co. of the local militia in Freetown, Job Peirce was commissioned Captain Aug. 21, 1801, and held that place till his death, Sept. 22, 1805. Was buried with military honors. He was Town Clerk of Freetown in 1802; Auditor of the town's accounts in 1803. Attained great success as a merchant. When Captain, Joseph E. Read was his Lieutenant, and Ambrose Barnaby Ensign. Capt. Peirce's remains are in the Peirce family cemetery in Lakeville, and his grave is marked by a slab of white marble bearing an inscription. (See page 242 of book entitled "Peirce Family of Old Colony.") His former residence in Freetown was the birth-place of the writer of this history. He caused to be erected in the southerly part of Assonet Village, the house in which he died. This house was built in or about 1796, or seventy-eight years since, and is still standing.

(50) Anne, b. Dec. 18, 1769; m. Dr. Nicholas Hathaway, of Taunton, her cousin. Removed to Milford, Union Co., Ohio. She died Sept. 28, 1822. (Gravestone.) He died Aug. 24, 1848.

(51) Lucy, b. Dec. 18, 1771; m. Feb. 19, 1795, Hon. William Bourne, of Middleboro'. He was commissioned Capt. of Cavalry May 22, 1797; promoted to Major of Cavalry, Sept. 12, 1803. Honorably discharged 1807. Justice of Peace from 1816 until his death, Dec. 10, 1845; member of the State Senate in

1820; Special Commissioner of Plymouth County. She died Dec. 2, 1859. Both buried in Middleboro', and have suitable gravestones.

(52) Levi, b. Oct. 1, 1773; m. Dec. 13, 1795, Sarah Bourne, of Middleboro'. Levi[10] was commissioned Junior Major of 4th Regiment in 1st Brigade, 5th Division, June 8, 1809; promoted to Senior Major in 1812. Honorably discharged in 1816. Commanded a battalion of the Coast Guard at New Bedford in 1814; Representative to the General Court in 1805, '06, '07, '08, '09; member of the Constitutional Convention in 1820; Post-master at Middleboro' about thirty years; Justice of Peace from 181– until his death, Aug. 22, 1847. His wife died Feb. 23, 1853, aged 75 years. Both buried in Middleboro', and have suitable gravestones.

(53) Ebenezer, b. May 26, 1775; m. April 24, 1803, Joanna, eldest daughter of Col. Benjamin Weaver and wife Amy Brownell, granddaughter of Benjamin Weaver, master mariner, and wife Joanna Barnaby, great-granddaughter of Benjamin Weaver and wife Ruth Sheffield. Ebenezer Peirce was Town Clerk of Freetown in 1801, 1803-4, and 1805; Representative to General Court in 1808, and 1824; commissioned a Justice of the Peace in 1808, and held that office until his death, a term of 37 years; Auditor of the town accounts 19 years; Deacon of the 1st Christian Church in Freetown 35 years. He died Jan. 6, 1845. His wife died Jan. 6, 1859. They were the parents of the writer of this family history and genealogy.

Ebenezer Peirce was born in the old farm-house on the Middleboro'-Lakeville road. Mrs. Joanna Peirce at the Four Corners in Assonet Village, Freetown, Mass., on May 8, 1786. The house was erected in or about 1744, or one hundred and thirty years ago, and is still occupied as a human habitation.

(54) Mary, b. May 31, 1777; m. Feb., 1797, Rev. David A. Leonard, of Bridgewater. He died July 22, 1819. She died Oct. 2, 1836. They removed to the west. Their daughters became the wives of Gov. David Merriweather, Hon. Wm. P. Thomasson, M. C. from Kentucky, and Dr. C. Hay. And they were the grand-parents of William Merriweather, U. S. Marshal, of Kentucky, Col. James Merriweather, of Union Army in late war, Major Charles L. Thomasson, an officer in the Union Army, slain at the battle of Chickamauga, and Col. John Hay, poet and

journalist, who graduated at Brown University in 1858; Assistant Secretary to President Lincoln in 1861; Aid to Gen. Hunter; Secretary of Legation at Paris from 1865 to 1867; Charge d'Affaires at Vienna, 1867 to 1868; Secretary of Legation at Madrid, 1869 to 1870; Author of "Pike County Ballads," and "Castilian Days." He was born at Salem, Ind., Oct. 8, 1839. Is now associated editorially with the New York Tribune.

(55) Sally, b. March 20, 1779; m. Deacon Abiel Nelson, of Middleboro', now Lakeville. He died 1829. She died Nov. 24, 1838. (See gravestones in Lakeville.)

(56) Elnathan, b. Oct. 20, 1781; d. Oct. 5, 1797. Buried in Peirce family cemetery, Lakeville, and has gravestone bearing legible inscription.

(57) Thomas, b. Dec. 26, 1783; d. March 1, 1784, buried in Peirce family cemetery, Lakeville. (Family Rec.)

(58) Peter Hoar, b. March 25, 1788; m. May 10, 1813, Nabby Sproat, of Middleboro'. He was commissioned Ensign of the local militia of Middleboro' in 1810; Captain, Feb. 18, 1814; Major of 4th Regiment in 1816; Lieut.-Col. April 25, 1818. Was a member of the State Senate, Justice of Peace and Coroner. Both buried in Middleboro'.

JOHN PEIRCE and wife Sarah Rounsevell (No. 16) had:

(59) Abiah, b. Dec. 24, 1756; m. Samuel Wood, of Middleboro'. Removed to Shutesbury, Mass.

(60) Nathan, b. June 24, 1758; m. Anna Hoar, of Shutesbury. He was a soldier in the Revolution.

(61) A child, born and died in 1761.

(62) Judith, b. Aug. 10, 1761; m. Dr. Moses Spear, of Shutesbury. He was deacon of the Baptist Church.

(63) Jacob, b. and died young, date unknown.

(64) John, b. March 1, 1766; m. Sarah Hoskins, of Shutesbury. He died April 23, 1841. She died May, 1849.

(65) Mary, b. Sept. 22, 1767; m. Deacon Joseph Hoskins, of Shutesbury. He d. Nov. 27, 1831.

(66) Sarah, b. Aug. 4, 1768; m. Jacob Church, of Shutesbury.

(67) Lois, b. March 1, 1772; m. —— Thayer.

(68) Eunice, m. Ensign Henry Hoskins, of Prescott. He was commissioned, April 19, 1809. Honorably discharged, Feb. 11, 1815.

John, the parent, married twice after the death of wife Sarah Rounsevell. John was born in Middleboro', now Lakeville, March 7, 1731; d. in Shutesbury, Mass., Jan. 9, 1823.

Col. JOHN NELSON and wife Hope Rounsevell (No. 17) had:

(69) Hope, b. July 28, 1761; m. Capt. Noble Canedy, of East Taunton. She died July 10, 1829. He was a Deputy Sheriff for Bristol Co., and Captain in the local militia of Taunton.[11]

(70) Hiram, b. Feb. 19, 1764; m. Mary Sampson, of Middleboro'. He died Feb. 7, 1838. She had what is called the old fashioned consumption, of which she lingered many years. Both buried in Lakeville, and have gravestones.

(71) Phebe, b. Aug. 16, 1766; died Aug., 1844; never married. Buried in Lakeville.

(72) Judith, b. Sept. 6, 1769; d. unm. Dec. 31, 1858.

(73) John, b. Oct. 19, 1771; d. unm. Aug., 1828.

(74) Ezra, b. Feb. 16, 1774; m. Abigail King, of Taunton. He died July 10, 1803. She died 1844.[12]

John Nelson, the parent, was a son of Lieut. Thomas Nelson, of Middleboro', now Lakeville, and born Oct. 25, 1737. Learned the trade of a blacksmith. Was commissioned Lieutenant of the 4th company of the local militia of Middleboro', in 1773. Promoted to Major of 4th Reg't 1st Brigade, May 9, 1776; Colonel, July 1, 1781. Honorably discharged in 1787. As a Major he served for a brief period at Rhode Island, and also at New Bedford, in War of the Revolution; Justice of the Peace for Plymouth Co.; Selectman of Middleboro'.

Hon. ALDEN SPOONER and wife Elizabeth Rounsevell (No. 20) had:

(75) Rounsevell, b. 1778; m. Susan ———. She died April 25, 1846, in her 67th year. He was a physician. He died March 17, 1844, aged 66 years. (Gravestone.)

(76) Sarah, never married.

(77) Jane, never married.

THOMAS ROUNSEVELL (No. 21) and wife Phylena Hathaway had:

(78) Phylena, b. 1771; m. Josiah Brown, of Freetown. She died Oct. 23, 1806, and he married her sister.

(79) Deliverance, m. Nov. 13, 1796, Lieut. Jedediah Thomas, of Freetown. (Freetown Records.)

(80) Hopestill, b. Dec. 6, 1773; m. May 2, 1808, Josiah Brown, of Freetown. She died Oct. 10, 1837.

(81) Thomas, b. Oct. 31, 1775; was a musician in Capt. Simeon Ashley's company, of the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814; married, Feb. 21, 1805, Huldah Keen, of New Bedford. He died Dec. 3, 1845.

(82) Elizabeth, b. 1779; d. June 9, 1843.

(83) Sally, m. Nov. 23, 1802, John Rounsevell, of Freetown (No. 43). He was a Deputy Sheriff.

(84) Polly, b. 1780; d. unm. Aug. 19, 1858.

(85) Lucinda, m. Dec. 2, 1805, Asa Macomber, of Middleboro'.

(86) John, m. no one; was scalded to death. (Trad.)

(87) Gilbert, b. 1787; d. March 11, 1789. (Gravestone.)

(88) Gilbert, b. 1789; m. twice, first, Huldah Lawrence, of Freetown; and second, Salome Booth. He died Oct. 27, 1850. He was a Deputy Sheriff. Was a Sergeant in Capt. Simeon Ashley's company of the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814. Elected Representative to Gen. Court.

(89) Silas, b. Dec. 11, 1791; m. Mary Weston, of Fairhaven. He died Feb. 12, 1861. He was a soldier in Capt. Simeon Ashley's company in the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814. (Freetown and State Records.)

PHILIP ROUNSEVELL (No. 23) and wife Mercy Cole had:

(90) Gamaliel, b. Oct. 12, 1776; m. Freelove Thompson, of Middleboro'. He was a Justice of the Peace, and a man of superior intelligence. Selectman of Middleboro'.

(91) Philip, b. Feb. 7, 1779; never married.

(92) Abial, b. Sept. 6, 1780; m. July 20, 1803, Betsey Ashley. (Freetown Records.)

(93) Hannah, b. April 12, 1783; m. April 13, 1806, Bradford Rounsevell, of Freetown.

(94) Ebenezer, b. Sept. 21, 1785; m. in 1808, Sally Rounsevell.

(95) Lydia, b. Dec. 3, 1787; never married.

(96) Phebe, never married. (Tradition.)

(97) Benjamin, b. Nov. 29, 1789; m. 1815, Ann Gifford, of Rochester.

(98) Joseph, b. March 25, 1792; m. Delia Lawrence. He was a soldier in the Coast Guard at New Bedford, in June, 1814,

in Capt. S. Ashley's company.

(99) Phylena, b. Aug. 12, 1794; m. June 10, 1814, Jonathan Washburn, of Dartmouth. (Freetown Records.)

(100) Alden, b. Oct. 26, 1797; m. 1822, Cornelia Ashley, of Freetown. He has been Selectman of Rochester.

(101) Robert G., m. 1827, Mrs. Delia Rounsevell, the widow of his brother Joseph Rounsevell, Robert G., died April 30, 1866.

WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL (No. 28) and wife Hannah Peirce had (102) Roena. (Trad.)

SYLVESTER ROUNSEVELL (No. 29) and wife Mary Peirce had:

(103) Peirce, m. Eunice. (Tradition.)

(104) Hon. Samuel, m. Nancy Kettell, d. 1887, Wis. (Tradition.)

(105) Sally, m. Seth Morse. (Tradition.)

BRADFORD ROUNSEVELL (No. 34) and wife Hannah Rounsevell (No. 93) had:

(106) Ann.

Lieut. LEONARD HINDS and wife Mary Rounsevell (No. 39) had:

(107) John, m. Mrs. Anna Peirce, the widow of Capt. Job Peirce, Jr. (No. 49). John was commissioned, March 17, 1811, Pay Master of the 2d regiment Bristol County militia, with the rank of a first Lieut. He died Dec. 1, 1811. The maiden name of his wife was Strobridge. She was a daughter of Lieut. Robert Strobridge, of Middleboro'. John was buried in the Peirce Family Cemetery in Lakeville, and has a gravestone bearing an inscription.

(108) Ruth.

Rev. WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL (No. 41) and wife Rhoda Durfee had:

(109) Catharine S., b. April 5, 1799; m. Aug. 15, 1815, Nahum Alger, of Bridgewater. She died Dec. 26, 1840. They were the parents of Rev. William R. Alger, of Boston.

(110) Job, m. Laura Washburn, of Bridgewater.

(111) William Jefferson, m. Lydia Booth, of Middleboro'. He died Nov. 12, 1842, and she married Noah Staples, of Taunton. She died 1874. He still lives.

(112) Betsey, m. Josiah Forbes, of Bridgewater.

(113) Arzelia, m. Henry Williams, of Easton.

(114) Rhoda.

The house where William the parent resided has recently been taken down. It stood in East Freetown, in what is called the Furnace Village.

Capt. ABRAHAM MORTON and wife Betsey Rounsevell (No. 42) had:

(115) William, b. 1792. (Tradition.)

(116) E———, b. 1794. (Tradition.)

(117) Artesea, b. 1800. (Tradition.)

(118) Selucia, b. 1802. (Tradition.)

(119) Elias Smith, b. 1805. (Tradition.)

(120) Daniel Hix, b. Sept. 3, 1810; lived in Marietta, Ohio. This family removed to Ohio in 1812, as I was told by Daniel H. Morton, when he visited me in Aug., 1865.

JOHN ROUNSEVELL (No. 43) and wife Sally Rounsevell (No. 83) had:

(121) Fanny, m. Jan. 25, 1828, Simeon Leach. She died Aug., 1864.

(122) Maria, m. Caleb Rogers, of Randolph.

(123) Charles, m. Mrs. Betsey Bolles, of Mattapoisett. He died in California.

(124) Mary, m. March 31, 1833, Paul Lawrence.

(125) Martha, m. Samuel Young, of Randolph.

(126) Sally, m. Pardon Gifford, of Fairhaven.

(127) Deborah.

HEZEKIAH MASON, Esq. and wife Sarah Rounsevell (No. 44) had:

(128) Levi R. He resided in New Bedford. Was Assessor of Freetown one year. For a time kept a country store in East Freetown, at a place called "Mason's Corner."

(129) Hezekiah.

Hezekiah the parent was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Bristol County, Feb. 24, 1825.

JOHN TOBEY and wife Fanny Rounsevell (No. 45) had:

(130) Nancy, m. Edward Pope Spooner, of Fairhaven, now Acushnet. He was a son of Dr. Rounsevell Spooner (No. 75). (Tradition.)

(131) Sally M. A., m. 1831, Lieut. James M. Morton, of East Freetown. He was b. April 28, 1803. Of the 3d Co. of the

local militia in Freetown, he was commissioned, May 25, 1822, as Ensign; promoted to Lieutenant, Aug. 20, 1824. Honorably discharged, July 5, 1827. This company belonged to 5th Regiment, in 2d Brigade, 5th Division Mass. Militia. Hercules Cushman, of Freetown, was Colonel of this regiment; Shepherd Leach, of Easton, Brigadier-General of the Brigade; and Benjamin Lincoln, of New Bedford, Maj.-General of the Division. (State and Town Records.)

(132) Rounsevell.

(133) Mary Ann, d. unm. (Tradition.)

(134) Catharine, m. John Weaver, of Troy, now Fall River. (Tradition.)

THOMAS ROUNSEVELL (No. 81) and wife Huldah Keen had:

(135) Obadiah, b. Feb. 17, 1808; m. Mary A. Gurney, of Freetown. (Freetown Records and Tradition.)

(136) John, b. Feb. 20, 1809. (Freetown Records.)

(137) Martin, b. May 30, 1811; m. Louisa Reed, of Middleboro'. Reside in Middleboro'.

(138) Betsey, b. March 24, 1813; m. Thomas Miller.

(139) Jesse K., b. March 24, 1816; m. 1846, Lydia A. Rounsevell, of Freetown. He died Nov. 13, 1849, and she m. Albert H. Chase, of Freetown. (Freetown Records and tradition.)

(140) Ruth, b. July 25, 1818; m. Hendrick Gifford, of Rochester. (Freetown Records and tradition.)

(141) William, b. Oct. 31, 1822; m. Abby Hudson, of New Bedford. (Freetown Records and tradition.)

(142) Gilbert, b. Dec. 31, 1822; m. Mary Macomber, of New Bedford. (Freetown Records and tradition.)

(143) Thomas, b. June 20, 1831. (Freetown Records.)

(144) Peregrine W., d. Sept. 4, 1852. (Freetown Records.)

GILBERT ROUNSEVELL (No. 88) and wife Huldah Lawrence had:

(145) Caroline, b. Sept. 17, 1811; shot, Oct. 6, 1821, by a boy who was carelessly handling a gun.

(146) Walter S., b. Dec. 7, 1813; m. Nov. 25, 1838, Ruth Evans, of Freetown. He was a Justice of the Peace for Bristol County from Feb. 17, 1848, to his death; and Selectman of Freetown two years. He died in California, Jan. 11, 1853. (State

and Freetown Records.)

(147) Huldah, b. March 21, 1816; m. March 20, 1837, William Dean, of Freetown. He was Selectman of Freetown, for years 1871-72-73-74. Representative to General Court one year. They reside in Assonet Village.

By 2d wife, Salome Booth, had:

(148) Marcus, M., b. Jan. 14, 1820; m. Nov. 26, 1846, Elizabeth C. Evans, of Freetown. Of company I, third Regt. Light Infantry, he was commissioned, Nov. 22, 1851, as Lieutenant; promoted to Captain March 19, 1853. Honorably discharged Feb., 1854. He was Selectman of Freetown, 1856-57, and 1859. Representative to General Court one year. Resided in East Freetown.

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(149) Susan C., b. Nov. 3, 1824; m. Oct. 22, 1842, John Long, of Bridgewater. They live in Randolph, Mass.

Huldah, the first wife of Gilbert Rounsevell, was a daughter of Rev. John Lawrence, of East Freetown; Salome, the second wife, was a daughter of Abiel Booth.

SILAS ROUNSEVELL (No. 89) and wife Mary Weston had:

(150) Mary, b. 1822; died Feb. 3, 1857; never married.

(151) Delia, b. Dec. 17, 1823; m. Feb. 18, 1848, Arad T. Leach, of Freetown. (Freetown Records.)

(152) Jane, b. Oct. 25, 1825; m. May 3, 1846, F. A. Cleveland, of Freetown. He was a soldier in the late war.

(153) Silas, b. Oct. 22, 1828; d. April 28, 1834.

(154) Abigail, b. Sept. 17, 1832; m. Jan. 9, 1859, Osmond F. Braley, Esq., of Freetown. Has been an Assessor of that town.

(155) Phylena, b. March 28, 1835; m. Edward A. Braley.

(156) Simon D., b. Feb. 1837; was a volunteer in the late war; died June 9, 1863, from a disease contracted in the army. He served in the 3d Mass. Regiment.

(157) George B., b. May 1, 1839; d. Dec. 28, 1861.

(158) Elnathan, b. Oct. 14, 1840; d. May 27, 1841.

GAMALIEL ROUNSEVELL, Esq. (No. 90) and wife Freelove Thompson had:

(159) Josephine, b. Nov. 24, 1825; m. Van Benthuysen.

(160) Harriet, b. Nov. 18, 1827; m. ——— Washburn.

(161) Elizabeth T., b. Aug., 1830; m. ——— Washburn.

(162) Abby K., b. Oct. 14, 1840.

ABIAL ROUNSEVELL (No. 92) and wife Betsey Ashley had:

(163) Macomber, b. 1804; d. Oct. 5, 1854.
(164) Amos.
(165) Clarinda, m. Pardon Gifford, of Fairhaven.
(166) Mercy, m. ——— Nye, of Fall River.
(167) Abial.
(168) Sophronea, m. Hosea Presho, of Raynham.
(169) Betsey, m. Elbridge Werden, of Providence.
(170) Cyrus, m. Irene Ashley, of Freetown.
(171) Ebenezer.

EBENEZER ROUNSEVELL (No. 94) and wife Sally Rounsevell had:

(172) Philip.
(173) Asenath.

BENJAMIN ROUNSEVELL (No. 97) and wife Ann Gifford had:

(174) Henry.
(175) Rhoda, m. Nye Gifford, of Rochester.
(176) Sally. (William Doty)
(177) William.
(178) Robert G.
(179) Joseph.
Benjamon.

JOSEPH ROUNSEVELL (No. 98) and wife Delia Lawrence had:

(180) Hannah, b. Aug. 4, 1817; m. June 12, 1837, Elam N. Davis, of Freetown.

(181) Joseph W., b. July 30, 1827; m. Susan C. Allen.

ALDEN ROUNSEVELL (No. 100) and wife Cornelia Ashley had:

(182) Alden, m. Roxanna Gammons, of Rochester, Mass.
(183) Horace.
(184) Cornelia, Preceptress of Rochester Academy.
(185) Phylena.
(186) Sarah, m. John Cudworth, of Lakeville, Mass.

Alden, the parent, has been a Selectman of the town of Rochester, Mass.

ROBERT G. ROUNSEVELL (No. 101) and wife Mrs. Delia Rounsevell had:

(187) Lydia A., m. Nov. 26, 1846, Jesse K. Rounsevell. He died, and she married, 2d, Jan. 16, 1853, Albert H. Chase.

(188) Oliver, m. Mary Ashley, of Middleboro', Mass.

(189) Amanda, m. William J. Rounsevell, of Freetown. He died in 1867, and she married Michael Bennett, of N. Rochester, Mass. He is a farmer.

(190) Edwin T., m. Annie C. Evans, of Freetown.

Robert G., the parent, died April 30, 1866.

NAHUM ALGER and wife Catharine S. Rounsevell (No. 109) had:

(191) Angeline.

(192) James.

(193) William R., b. Dec. 20, 1822; m. 1847, Anne L. Lodge, of Boston. He was a graduate of Cambridge Theological School, in 1847, and the same year became the minister of a Unitarian Society at Roxbury, and in 1855 exchanged for a similar charge in Boston, and preached at the Music Hall, in that city. In 1851, he published "A Symbolic History of the Cross of Christ." In 1856, "The Poetry of the East." His chief work is "A Critical History of the Doctrine of a Future Life." (Dictionary of American Biography.)

WILLIAM JEFFERSON ROUNSEVELL (No. 111) and wife Lydia Booth had:

(194) William J., m. Amanda Rounsevell (No. 189) of Freetown. He died, and she married Michael Bennett, of North Rochester, Mass.

(195) Levi, m. twice: first, Frances Dean, of Taunton; second, Maria Davis, of Raynham. (Tradition.)

(196) Susan M., m. George F. Godfrey, of Taunton.

(197) Charity P., m. Lorenzo D. Braley, of Freetown.

(198) John A. (m. Jane Ashley of Freetown).

(199) Hannah, m. William Chase, of Freetown.

(200) Valerian, m. Gilbert Read, of Taunton.

After the death of William Jefferson Rounsevell, the parent, Lydia, the mother, became the wife of Noah Staples, of Taunton. She died in 1874. She was Staples's second wife. He is still living.

OBADIAH ROUNSEVELL (No. 135) and wife Mary A. Gurney had:

(201) Mary Jane. (Tradition.)

(202) Nancy. (Tradition.)

(203) Obadiah. (Tradition.)

MARTIN ROUNSEVELL (No. 137) and wife Louisa Reed

had:

(204) Thomas. A practical printer.

JESSE K. ROUNSEVELL (No. 139) and wife Lydia A. Rounsevell (No. 187) had:

(205) Philander G., b. May, 1847.

(Also, Myra, m. Joseph Damarell.)

WILLIAM ROUNSEVELL (No. 141) and wife Abby Hudson had:

(206) William.

(207) Frederick.

(208) Mary F.

(209) Albert.

WALTER S. ROUNSEVELL, Esq. (No. 146) and wife Ruth Evans had:

(210) Caroline B.

(211) Walter L.

(212) Emogene, m. Leander Washburn.

(213) Mary F., m. Alfred Howland.

(Also, had Frank, died in infancy.)

WILLIAM DEAN and wife Huldah Rounsevell (No. 147) had:

(214) William R., b. Aug. 22, 183—; m. Oct. 29, 1863, Eliza E. Macomber, of Freetown. They reside in Assonet Village, Freetown.

(Had two children—Frank and Katie.)

Capt. MARCUS M. ROUNSEVELL[13] (No. 148) and wife Elizabeth C. Evans had:

(215) Myra, b. Sept. 20, 1847; m. Abiel Ashley, of Fairhaven. (Freetown Records.)

(216) Luman D., b. Oct. 2, 1849. (Freetown Records.)

(217) Arthur, b. Aug. 10, 1851. (Freetown Records.)

(218) Samuel B., b. Oct. 11, 1853; d. Aug. 15, 1854.

(219) Harry G.

(220) Elizabeth M.

This family reside in East Freetown.

This number of 220 persons might, I think, have been extended to about 300 lineal descendants of William Rounsevell, of Honiton, their English ancestor, had a proper interest been manifested by some of these descendants, whose names are embodied herein, but who in response to my request did not furnish

me with the names and dates of the births of their children, which names and dates are as a consequence omitted.

In what has been shown, it clearly appears that the Rounsevells were respectable people, and possessed, at least, an ordinary share of practical sense.

Philip, the emigrant, was, for the time in which he lived, a very wealthy man, and distinguished by uncommon foresight, possessing in an eminent degree the faculties sometimes expressed by the term "long-headed."

His grandson, Capt. Levi Rounsevell (No. 13), commanded all the Minute Men of Freetown that responded at the Lexington Alarm, or at least all that the writer has been able to find an account of in the archives of this State in the Secretary's office at Boston. If others participated their names do not there appear.

A great-grandson of the emigrant, Rev. William Rounsevell (No. 41) was distinguished as a legislator, being elected by his townsmen for ten consecutive years to represent them in the General Court at Boston. He was an eloquent speaker—some of his powers of expression and oratory having descended to his grandson, Rev. William Rounsevell Alger, of Boston.

The writer has long since come to the conclusion that one of the most fortunate acts of his grandfather (Capt. Job Peirce) was that of taking to wife Elizabeth Rounsevell (No. 15).[11] She proved a great and inestimable blessing to him during the whole of their married life, and also to their children after him. I seldom, if ever, think of him but in my heart to feel grateful and honor his memory for conferring upon his posterity the inestimable privilege and blessing of descending from such a mother. That act of his secured to his children and children's children, a blessing beyond the value of gold or price of rubies. Alas! how many by that act entail on their posterity an endless, overwhelming curse, running through all their lives—a curse like that where "the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched."

As a slight token of my love, and the veneration that I feel for the memory of that grandmother, the requisite materials have been collected, and this sketch of the Rounsevell family prepared and presented in print by her grandson, the writer.

NOTES

[1]Honiton is 156½ miles W.S.W. of London and 16½ miles E.N.E. from Exeter, on a rising ground upon the south side of the river Otter. Population in 1851 was 3427.

[2]Of the third company in the local militia of Freetown the names of captains, together with the dates of their commissions and discharges were as follows:

John Rounsevell, commissioned in 1751, honorably discharged 1762.

Elisha Parker, commissioned 1762, discharged Sept. 19, 1775, by an act of the Legislature.

Joseph Norton, commissioned 1777, honorably discharged 1781.

Peregrine White, commissioned July 1, 1781, honorably discharged 179—.

Noah Crapo, commissioned April 21, 1797, honorably discharged 1798.

Abraham Morton, commissioned May 21, 1798, cashiered and dismissed the service by sentence of Court Martial in Aug., 1805.

Dr. James Ashley, commissioned Oct. 14, 1805, honorably discharged April 13, 1811. Removed to State of New York.

Simeon Ashley, commissioned Feb. 4, 1812, promoted to Colonel of 5th regiment, 2d brigade, 5th division of Massachusetts Militia, Aug. 10, 1818. Removed to State of New York.

Ephraim Gurney, commissioned Sept. 22, 1818, honorably discharged April 15, 1822.

Daniel Edson, commissioned May 25, 1822, honorably discharged 1830.

Under Capt. Edson this company came out in uniform-blue jackets and white pants.

Malachi White, commissioned May 4, 1830, honorably discharged April 15, 1835. He was a son of Capt. Peregrine White.

Robert W. Cottle, commissioned June 20, 1835, honorably discharged at the disbandment of the company by act of Legislature, April 24, 1840.

This company during the War of the American Revolution was called out several times for the performance of short tours of military duty. It went to Rhode Island in Dec., 1776, under Lieut. Nathaniel Morton, 34 strong, and to that State again in Aug., 1780, under Capt. Joseph Norton, 44 men rank and file. In the last war with England, under Capt. Simeon Ashley, it formed a part of the Coast Guard at New Bedford and Fairhaven, called into service June, 1814, and responded with 54 all told. Until 1812 it had been a part of the 2d regiment in 2d brigade, 5th division, but then incorporated as a part of a new regiment numbered as the Fourth in 2d brigade, 16th division Massachusetts Militia. Of this new regiment Joseph E. Read, of Troy, was Lieut.-Col. Commandant, Abraham Briggs, of Dighton, and Joseph Weaver, of Freetown, Majors. Major Joseph Weaver died Dec., 1814. He was a son of Col. Benjamin Weaver, of Freetown. In 1818, the East Freetown company was made a part of the 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, 5th Division.

East Freetown for a few years had a uniformed company of Light Infantry. Names of Captains with dates of commissions as follows:

William F. Wood, commissioned Nov. 22, 1851, honorably discharged 1852.

Marcus M. Rounsevell, commissioned March 19, 1853, honorably discharged 1854.

William A. Haffords, commissioned March 11, 1854, honorably discharged 1856.

Tracy Allen, commissioned May, 1856, honorably discharged July, 1857.

This was company F, of 3d regiment of Light Infantry, commanded by Col. Stephen Thomas, of Middleborough, and in the 2d brigade under Brigadier-General E. W. Peirce, of Freetown. Armory was removed to New Bedford, when the company took the name of "Acushnet Guards," and elected Dr. John H. Jennings Captain. He was promoted to Major of said regiment and subsequently Colonel. As Major he performed duty in the three months' service at Fortress Monroe in 1861.

[3]There is a picture of the old farm house of Capt. Job Peirce, as it appeared at the date of demolition, about four years since. When or by whom erected the writer has sought in vain to learn. It was purchased by Capt. Job Peirce about one hundred and ten years ago, and under its roof eleven of his children were born, and here he and his wife Elizabeth Rounsevell (No. 15) spent nearly the whole of their married life. Here too they died, and from this unpretending mansion were carried to their burial in the Peirce family cemetery on the hill, as seen in the distance. This view is from the north-east. Capt. Peirce put on an addition of about ten or twelve feet at the south end, and added an L portion to the back part not shown in the picture. The road in front is that leading from Middleboro' Four Corners to Lakeville townhouse.

The farm of Capt. Job Peirce, and whereon this house stood, contained more than two hundred acres. It was here that tidings were brought, and in response to which he at a moment's warning went forth to repel the British on the occasion now known as the Lexington Alarm (April 19, 1775), and from here also that he set out at the head of his company in Dec. 1776, and again in 1777 to assist in driving the English soldiers from Rhode Island. (See rolls of these companies, pages 64 and 65 of the work entitled, "Peirce Family of Old Colony.")

When the British soldiers landed in Dartmouth, now New Bedford, and attempted to burn the village of Fair Haven (Sept. 17, 1778), Capt. Peirce again repaired to the scene of conflict and bloody strife, and so desirous was he of being there without delay, that he started on horseback, taking one of his older boys up behind him to bring back and care for the horse, and leaving his wife and younger children to clear the house of what valuables they could, as the English army in force was thought to be penetrating the country, sacking and devastating by fire and sword.

Ah, what a day of trial was that for a mother! Her husband in the battle, liable at any instant to fall, and over his mangled body the triumphant foe momentarily expected with fire and musket, seeking "beauty and booty."

Those were truly "the days that tried men's souls" and women's, too. But this mother was equal to the emergency; for after carrying from the house and hiding what she could, she took the breakfast, till then not eaten, and with her young children sought refuge in a swamp, where, calling her family around her, they partook of the morning meal.

The writer's father, though less than four years old at that time, well remembered this circumstance, and used to repeat the story to me when I, a little boy, sat upon his knee and eagerly listened to his recital of his father's sufferings

"In the days when he went soldiering,
Long time ago."

That the British soldiers were bravely met by the militia, under Maj. Israel Fearing, and so severely handled as to retreat before accomplishing their object, is a matter of general history; and towards night this mother and her little ones ventured forth from their place of their concealment to learn the joyful intelligence that the father was alive, and that the house they had expected never again to see had not fallen a sacrifice to the enemy's torch.

This story, together with what occurred in the old house on the occasion known as the *dark day* (May 20, 1780), were among the most stirring events with the recital of which my honored father sought to interest me in childhood.

Capt. Job Peirce was the donor of "Peirce Academy", Middleboro', Mass. After the death of Elizabeth Rounsevell, he for a second wife was united in marriage with Mrs. Elizabeth Strobridge. She was the widow of Lieut. Robert Strobridge, of Middleboro', now Lakeville, and a daughter of William Nelson and wife Elizabeth Howland. She was born in 1750, and died in 1846, aged about 96 years. Her remains are interred in the Nelson cemetery, Lakeville, and her grave marked by a white marble slab bearing an inscription. Rev. William, Rev. Samuel, and Rev. Ebenezer Nelson were her brothers. They were Calvinistic Baptist clergymen.

[4]Col. John Nelson was the eldest son of Lieut. Thomas Nelson and wife Judith Peirce, and born in Middleborough, now Lakeville, Oct. 25, 1737. Learned the trade of a blacksmith. Of the fourth company in the local militia of Middleborough, he was commissioned, in 1773, as Lieutenant. May 9, he was promoted to Major of the 4th regiment in the militia of Plymouth County, in which capacity he performed short tours of duty at Rhode Island and New Bedford. Promoted to Colonel July 1, 1781. Was a Selectman of Middleborough and a Justice of the Peace for Plymouth County. He and his wife were interred in the ancient cemetery on the southly bank of Assawomset Pond, in Lakeville, both graves being marked by suitable stones bearing inscriptions. His gravestone was very large for the time of its construction, and the work elaborate and very ornamental.

[5]Field officers of the 3d regiment at that time were: Noah Hall, of Raynham, Colonel; Gideon Williams, of Taunton, Lieut-Colonel; Job Winslow, of Dighton, Major; James Williams, Jr., Adjutant.

[6]This 7th Co. or "Beech Woods Co." as it was called, was remarkably addicted to the habit of superseding its subaltern officers. Thus, when Henry Peirce, its first commander resigned, James Peirce was made Captain from ranks (July 7, 1787), and a good deal of trouble and hard feeling in consequence. This conduct was repeated in 1796, when Abanoam Hinds was made Captain, and also when Doctor Elisha Briggs was elected Sept. 29, 1806, and Ethan Peirce June 6, 1815, as a Lieutenant, in each case was superseded by having a man from the ranks put over them in office. The next and last act of this kind, in which this company participated, was Aug. 15, 1831, when Lieut. John W. Canedy was superseded by Silas P. Ashley, a private and one of the youngest soldiers in the company. The occasions when the promotions were according to rank, were: May 4, 1802, Lieut. Elkanah Peirce was made Captain; March 20, 1811, Ensign Sylvanus Parris was promoted to Captain; Lieut. Apollos Read, in 182—; Lieut. John Strobridge, May 19, 1827, and Lieut. Samuel Hoar June 6, 1829. These were each from subalterns made to be a company commander.

[7]Bradford Durfee, then Major of the 2d Regiment, and Adoniram Crane, Major of 3d Regiment in same Brigade, sought an election to the Colonelcy of this *then new* 5th Regiment, that was composed of companies formerly belonging to said 2d and 3d Regiments, but neither was successful, and as a compromise, Capt. Ashley, then holding the oldest or ranking commission of Captain, was selected and chosen Colonel; and a rhymer of that day, in describing the event, said:

"Then they went on rashly
And chose one little Ashley,
When all who drank had their reckoning to pay."

This scrap of doggerel was probably an inspiration of some one who went home from that day's election dry as well as disappointed, and in rhythm tried to revenge his fancied or real lack of free rum.

Col. Ashley doubtless felt that for this promotion he had "no friends to reward or enemies to punish," and may not have treated so high as those more desirous of promotion, and who were denied the honor they coveted. Col. Ashley removed to the State of New York. He was a brother of Dr. James Ashley. Col. Ashley's former residence in Freetown has since been the home of Capt. Calvin Thomas. Col. Ashley was a son of Lieut. Percival Ashley, of Freetown.

Capt. Darius Perry, of Dighton, was at the same time made Lieut.-Colonel, and Capt. Lynde Hathaway, of Freetown, Major. Philip P. Hathaway, of Freetown, was appointed Adjutant.

[8]The names of the officers and soldiers of the 3d company in the local militia of Freetown, who performed duty as a part of the "Coast Guard," stationed at or near New Bedford, in 1814. This service commenced June 18, 1814.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS: Simeon Ashley, *Captain;* Samuel Macomber, *Ensign.*

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS: Bishop Ashley, John Rounsevell, Gilbert Rounsevell and Philip Taber, *Sergeants.* John Allen, Benjamin Ellis, Clark Haskins,

and Josiah DeMoranville, *Corporals.*

MUSICIANS: Ephraim Gurney and Thomas Rounsevell, Jr.

PRIVATES: Abram Ashley, 2d, Abram Ashley, 3d, Thomas Ashley, Taber Ashley, Leonard Ashley, Abel Briggs, Jonathan Braley, Job Braley, John Burt, Asa Clark, Jr., Joseph Clark, William Case, William Cummings, George Cummings, Jael Cummings, Frederick Downing, John Downing, James Gorham, David Simmons Hatheway, Philip Hatheway, Nathaniel Haskell, Nathaniel Jucket, David Lawrence, Spencer Lawrence, Ansel Lucas, Hezekiah Mason, Abraham Pittsley, Alexander Pittsley, Ira Pittsley, James Pittsley, Noah Perkins, Joseph Rounsevell, Silas Rounsevell, Mike Reynolds, Jr., William Reynolds, Luther Rogers, John Tobey, William Westgate, James White, John White, Malachi White and Samuel White, Jr. Commissioned, 2. Non-commissioned and Musicans, 10. Privates, 42. Total, 54. Of these 25 were on duty 14 days, one 12 days, twenty-three 11 days, and one 10, one 9, one 7, one 4, and one 3 days.

This, strictly speaking, was not the third but rather the second company in Freetown at that date, as by the setting off of Fall River in 1803, Freetown lost its second company. The first company in the local militia of Freetown, eighty-seven strong, were on duty at New Bedford with this, and four years later the captains of both were promoted to field officers of the 5th Regiment in 2d Brigade, 5th Division Massachusetts Militia.

[9]"At the same Court was tried Capt. Abraham Morton of 2d regiment, 2d brigade, charged with disobedience of orders and neglect of duty, viz., on the first Tuesday of May, 1804, neglecting and refusing to parade with the company under his command."

"2dly, For continuing to neglect and refuse to do military duty from said 1st Tuesday of May to the 25th of September following. In consequence of Capt. Morton's non-appearance the court consider him guilty of the charges contained in his arrest, and sentence him to be removed from office and adjudge him incapable of holding any military commission under this Commonwealth for life."

"The Major-General approves the proceedings of the Court Martial, and orders that it take effect immediately."

"By order of the Major-General,
(Signed) N. HAYWARD, A.D.C."

[10]There was an old house, the "Old Morton House," so called, in Middleboro', which was torn down in 1870. It was on the lower floor of this house that Maj. Levi Peirce first commenced business as a trader or country store keeper. His family then occupied a tenement on the second floor. A part of this house is said to have been a human habitation two hundred years.

Going back in the mind's eye for the full term of an entire century of years, and this relic of a former age was owned and occupied by a stiff, unyielding lovalist, an uncompromising tory, who had no sympathy for his neighbors struggling for liberty, and through great suffering, privation and blood seeking to rid their necks from a foreign yoke, and to free themselves and their children from monarchial rule and British bondage.

It was on one of those "days that tried men's souls," that a neighbor stepped into the kitchen of this (even then) old and antiquated mansion, and noticed a large iron pot banging over the fire in the broad, old-fashioned, open fireplace, and was told by the lady of the house that the pot so nicely boiling contained the head and harslet or pluck of a calf, and then added: "I wish, however, that instead it was the head and heart of Gen. Washington that I had in that pot over the fire and boiling."

To look back to and contemplate events that transpired a century since, seems like going a long way into the dim and distant past; but as connected with the history of this ancient landmark by the early New England fathers set, could we but stand where our revolutionary fathers one hundred years since stood, still another century of time would intervene between us and the day that the foundations of this ancient edifice were laid: and it seems to address itself to us in the

language—"An hundred years before the great republic of America was, I am, and six generations of men were born, matured and perished while I yet remained."

A portion of this house was erected about the time of King Philip's War, that ante-dated the American Revolution by just one century. It was built at three different times. The east or back end was the most ancient, but no part probably was less than one hundred years old.

A large and quite a powerful tribe of Indians inhabited a part of Middleboro' when the building of this house was commenced. Yes,

"Loud howled the Indian foe,
While here the evening prayer arose
Two hundred years ago."

[11]Noble Canedy, as a private soldier in the patriot army of the Revolution, was on duty in Rhode Island in Dec., 1776.

[12]They were the parents of the late Dea. Horatio Nelson, of the Calvinistic Baptist Church in Lakeville, and also Town Clerk of that town in 1854. His sister was the wife of Capt. Abiel M. Sampson, and mother of Lieut. James Sampson, of the Union Army in late war.

[13]At that time the Field Officers of the 3d Regt. were: Stephen Thomas, of Middleboro', Colonel; Ebenezer W. Peirce, of Lakeville, Lieut.-Colonel; and Rogers L. Barstow, of Mattapoisett, Major Eliab Ward, of Middleboro', was Brig.-General.

He has in his possession the tavern sign of Capt. John Rounsevell (No. 8), his great-grandfather. It bears the date of "1771," and words "Civil Entertainment by J. and S. R.," meaning John and Sally Rounsevell. The tavern stood on the spot of ground now occupied by the house of Capt. Marcus M. Rounsevell.

[14]It is a singular fact, and at the same time one that speaks volumes in this family's praise, that in tracing the Rounsevell history for about two hundred years, I have not learned of a single case of divorce. People will yet come to learn that the qualities which cause divisions in families, separations and divorces, are inherited as much as complexion and color of eyes or hair; in a word, natural intelligence or stupidity, amiability, or its opposite, thorough disagreeableness.

THE ROUNSEVELL FAMILY

By EBENEZER WEAVER PEIRCE